MANAGEMENT AND FINANCIAL REPORTING



PERFORMANCE BLUEPRINT
APPLICATION BRIEF

A WEB-BASED PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT APPLICATION

INTRODUCTION

This application brief demonstrates a Web-based process for crossenterprise management and financial reporting. Featured are a group income statement, profit-and-loss account (P&L), cash flow, and key performance indicators (KPIs) from both internal and external corporate performance perspectives. The application brief demonstrates integration of management and financial consolidation with corporate reporting using Cognos 8 Controller and Cognos 8 Business Intelligence (BI), which provides a consistent view of operational and financial data. [Both products are required for *Blueprint* implementation.]

Financial measures are fundamental to quantifying corporate performance. Performance disclosure has two faces: an internal view of company performance, and an external view that is reported to markets and regulators. They should be complementary views of the same information, but in most organizations, there is a disconnect between external disclosure and internal reporting. Though many organizations suffer from "multiple versions of the truth," unifying the two faces of disclosure offers significant benefit.

The models and processes described in this document are generic for any industry and any country. Their goal is providing a multidimensional platform coupled with a flexible predefined model integrating management reporting and consolidation with statutory reporting.



OVERVIEW

Financial consolidation is a specialized process—usually managed by a small team of accountants—that creates an audited enterprise view of financial information from which financial KPIs and metrics are derived. To begin the consolidation process, subsidiaries close their books and submit data for central collection. Many organizations maintain multiple general ledgers and ERP systems across subsidiaries, divisions, and geographies.

To collect data but once and—at the same time—to perform both statutory and management consolidation, data must be reported at the lowest common denominator. Organizing data by business area, product, or customer allows consolidation with elimination of internal transactions, ultimately providing a complete income statement along any of these dimensions. Statutory consolidation and accounts are based on the same data, but more aggregated and in different dimensions.

By taking source data from operational ERP applications (including general ledgers) and sharing it with performance management applications such as scorecarding and planning, a foundation is provided for consistency across internal and external perspectives. Data from a consolidation application can also be fed to a data warehouse in the business intelligence infrastructure, enabling other tools to use this data for operational analysis.

Though consolidation is a specialized process, it is fundamental to performance management strategy and is key in uniting the two perspectives of disclosure.

MODEL OBJECTIVES

- Integrate processes and systems for management and statutory consolidation and reporting.
- Leverage a platform for enhanced management and corporate reporting and analysis.

KEY COGNOS 8 CONTROLLER MFR BLUEPRINT BENEFITS

- Increased efficiency in the financial consolidation process.
- Easy implementation to help mitigate risk during implementation.
- More than 200 pre-defined standard reports that improve content and increase effectiveness in the corporate reporting process resulting in a higher return on investment.
- Templates for easy creation of standard management reports.
- Flexibility to modify existing reports or custom design new ones.
- Ability to easily manage data- and meta-data layers that support reporting.
- A platform for integration of multiple data sources.
- One source for security and user rights.
- Supports SAP, Oracle, and other ERP applications.

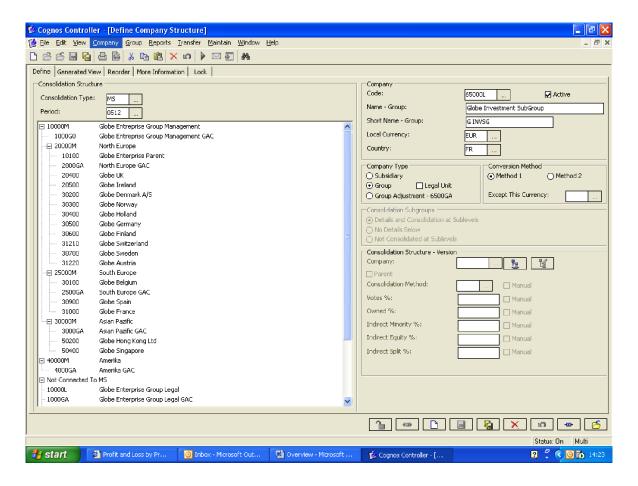
FINANCIAL AND MANAGEMENT CONSOLIDATION COMPRISES FOUR STEPS:

- Maintenance
- Data collection
- Data processing
- Data output

MAINTENANCE

Cognos Controller consists of a number of pre-defined structures such as account, actuals, company, and free extended dimensions. A continuous process updates these structures for each reporting period.

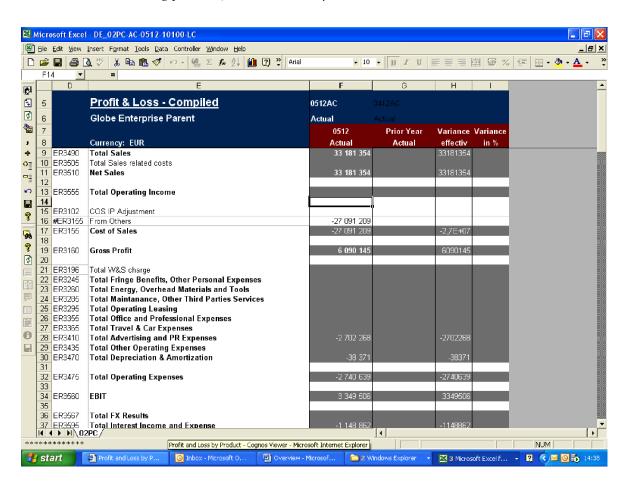
The *Company* dimension is a pre-defined structure for defining groups, subgroups, companies, and their relationships.



DATA COLLECTION

To begin the consolidation process, subsidiaries must close their books and submit data for central collection. Many organizations maintain multiple general ledgers and ERP systems across subsidiaries, divisions, and geographies, each with its own chart of accounts. Controller is fed data from such disparate source systems, and creates a common denominator for each source.

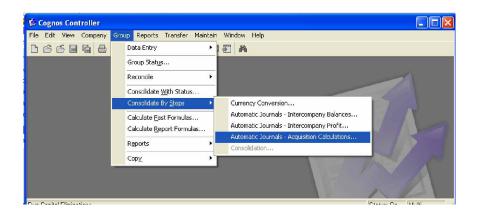
Data can be entered manually or via import from text files. New in Cognos 8 Controller is a full Microsoft Excel interface for creating powerful, flexible data entry screens.



DATA PROCESSING

When data from all entities and subsidiaries is collected and transformed to a common view or chart of accounts, the actual financial consolidation process can begin. The process consists of:

- Currency conversion, since all companies must present figures in the same currency, otherwise they cannot be added together.
- Elimination of inter-company balances, inter-company profits, inter-company transactions, and internal transactions.
- Eliminations of investments in subsidiaries and other acquisition calculations.



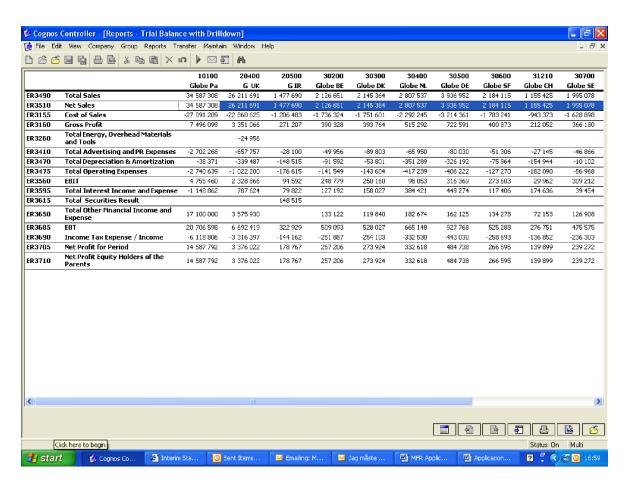
DATA OUTPUT

For many groups consolidation is an iterative process, reviewing, adjusting, and reconciling before obtaining final results. Once accounts are final, reporting can begin.

Cognos 8 Controller offers built-in solutions for analysis and reporting:

- Predefined standard reports
- Excel integration

Cognos 8 Controller offers more than 200 pre-defined standard reports. Standard reports are included in a default installation and can display both data and metadata. The reports contain all the features required to support the close process, and automatically support any customer configuration. The Trial Balance below is an example.



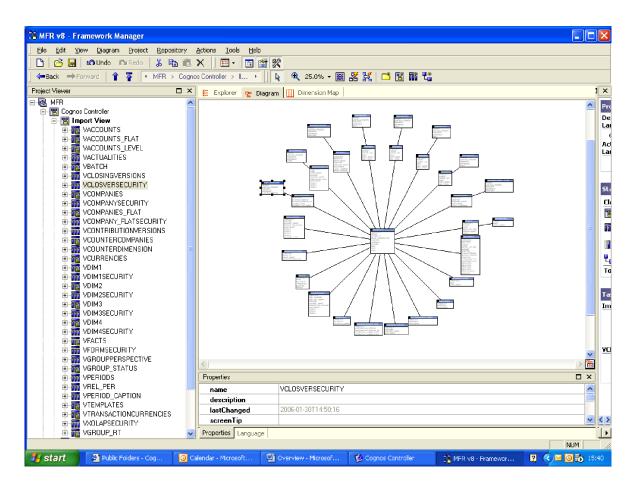
Standard reports, the Excel Link, and Report Generator are perfect consolidation and reporting tools for verifying data and structures. For distribution within the organization for further analysis, benchmarking, and scorecards, the next step is Web-based distribution of performance management and financial data. The *MFR Blueprint* leverages the new Cognos 8 Business Intelligence platform.

To streamline the consolidation process and to facilitate report creation, the MFR Performance Blueprint contains predefined building blocks. Examples are:

- Framework Manager model with Calculated Measures
- Pre-defined report templates

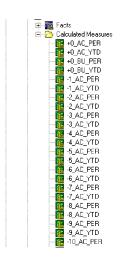
FRAMEWORK MANAGER MODEL

The FM model is the technical foundation for the *MFR Blueprint*, and is where multiple dimensions and data are linked in a star schema. The FM model provides a data management layer to organize financial information for reporting, and allows users to expand the model and integrate other data sources. It helps identify key business, time, and accounting dimensions.



CALCULATED MEASURES

The model also contains Calculated Measures, which make report creation much easier. Examples of such Measures are Current Period Actuals, Current Period Budget, Previous Period Actuals, Rolling 3, and Rolling 12. These calculations could easily be dragged onto the report as discrete columns.



REPORT TEMPLATES

The MFR Blueprint includes templates which simplify the creation of management reports. Using structures and business rules defined in Cognos 8 Controller, the templates provide pre-defined layouts and data for a variety of management and financial reporting styles. Templates include:

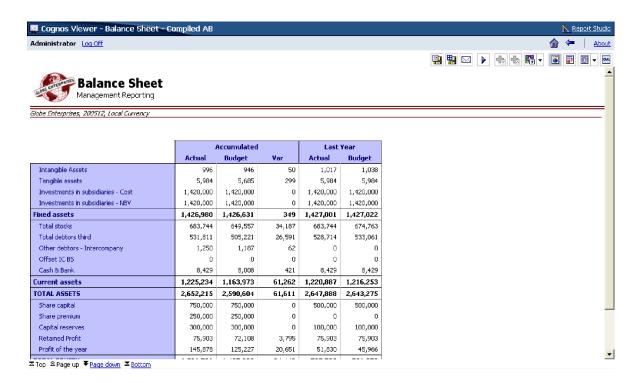
- Entity by Form
- Entity by Dimension
- Form by Actuals
- Form by Actuals and Period
- Form by Dimension

This sample template is Form by Actuals, Business Unit, Variance or Variance Percentage (AC, BU, Var, Var%). It may be used as-is or easily modified.

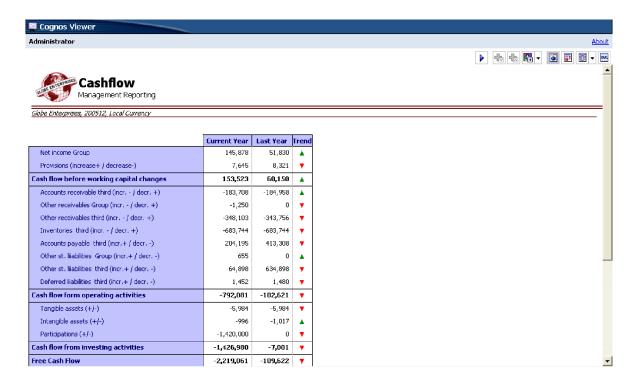


Although templates can be used "out-of-the-box" without modification, they can easily be modified to suit individual requirements such as a profit-and-loss statement, balance sheet, or cashflow.

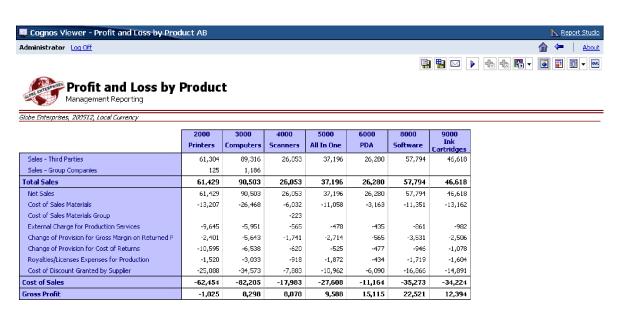
The Form by AC, BU, Var, Var% template displayed above could easily be transformed into a balance sheet:



Another example of reports created from templates is this cashflow statement.



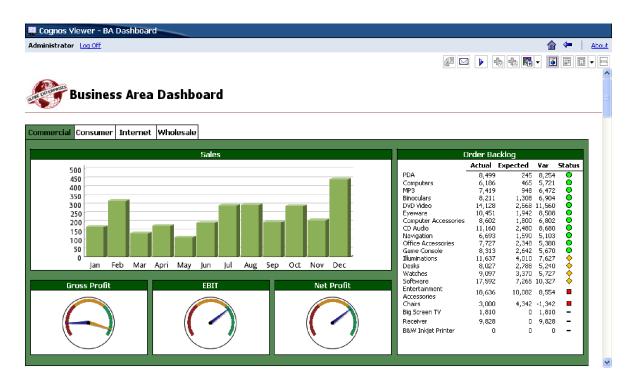
Cognos 8 Controller and the *MFR Blueprint* enable you to break down information in detail, as in this profit-and-loss statement by product (note column headings).



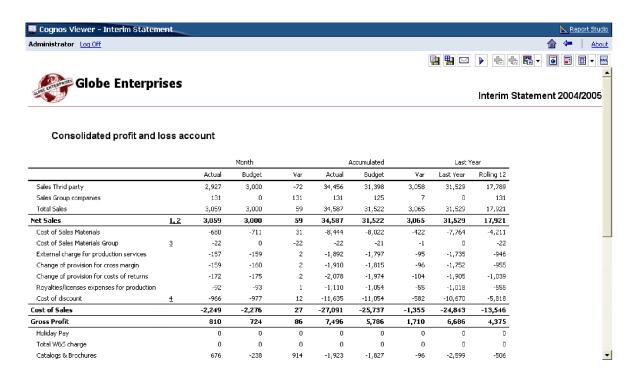
The complete report coverage offered in Cognos 8 Business Intelligence enables you to combine different data types in a dashboard. Here is an example of a corporate dashboard that displays aggregated information at a high level.



Here is an example of a dashboard on a lower, business-area level.



The MFR Blueprint could also be used to create and leverage reports for external stakeholders. Here is a typical interim statement:



ABOUT THE COGNOS INNOVATION CENTER FOR PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

The Cognos Innovation Center was established in North America and Europe to advance the understanding of proven planning and performance management techniques, technologies, and practices. The Innovation Center is dedicated to transforming routine performance management practices into "next practices" that help cut costs, streamline processes, boost productivity, enable rapid response to opportunity, and increase management visibility.

Staffed globally by experts in planning, technology, and performance and strategy management, the Innovation Center partners with more than 600 Cognos customers, academicians, industry leaders, and others seeking to accelerate adoption, reduce risk, and maximize the impact of technology-enabled performance management practices.

